

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 TRSE-00 ARA-06 NEA-10 /096 W
-----291435Z 025503 /45

O R 291328Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 161
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3498

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, NI
SUBJECT: NIGERIAN MEDIATION OF ZAIRE-ANGOLA DISPUTE

REF: (A) LAGOS 3458; (B) STATE 67964.

1. SUMMARY: GARBA HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE FROM ANGOLANS
YET, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE THEY ARE TIED UP WITH CASTRO VISIT. GARBA
STILL SEES KATANGESE INVAISION AS ANGOLA-SUPPORTED. HE FLIES TO
KINSHASA MARCH 30 TO CONFER WITH MOBUTU AND MAY POSSIBLY GO ON TO
LUANDA MARCH 31, RETURNING LAGOS THE SAME DAY. GARBA LEAVES FOR
NEW DELHI APRIL 2, STOPPING IN LONDON TO DISCUSS SOUTHERN AFRICAN
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ISSUES WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN. HE IS MOST GRATIFIED WITH HIS
MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE AND NSC ADVISER BRZEZINSKI LAST
WEEK. END SUMMARY.

2. AT SUGGESTION OF EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA, CHARGE MET
HIM AT DODAN BARRACKS 10 A.M. MARCH 29 FOR FAST 10-MINUTE
DISCUSSION AS GARBA DUCKED OUT FROM FEDERAL BUDGET MEETING.

3. GARBA SAID HE HAD HAD NO DEFINITIVE RESPONSE YET FROM ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO WITH RESPECT TO HIS MEDIATION OFFER, AND NETO SEEMED TO BE DRAGGING HIS FEET. AN ANGOLAN DELEGATION WAS SUPPOSED TO COME TO LAGOS LAST WEEKEND BUT DID NOT SHOW. GARBA CALLED NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN LUANDA YESTERDAY AND LATTER SAID CASTRO IS IN ANGOLA AND NETO DOES NOT WANT TO SEND DELEGATION UNTIL AFTER THE CUBAN LEADER LEAVES.

4. CHARGE ASKED WHAT IMPRESSION THE NIGERIAN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE (YUSUFU) HAD BROUGHT BACK FROM HIS MARCH 19 VISIT TO NAGOLA. GARBA SAID HE (YUSUFU) HAD GENERALLY TAKEN THE ANGOLAN SIDE IN THE MATTER, HAD CONFIRMED THAT ANGOLA WAS SUPPORTING THE KATANGESE, BUT RECOMMENDED THAT NIGERIA STAY OUT OF THE MATTE\$. CHARGE OBSERVED THAT CESSATION OF ANGOLAN SUPPORT FOR THE KATANGESE AND CLOSURE OF THE BORDER WITH SHABA PROVINCE ARE VITAL TO RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. GARBA ASKED HOW THINGS WERE GOING IN ZAIRE. CHARGE SAID SIMPLY THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE CAPUTRE OF MUTSHATSHA BY THE KATANGESE, THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE CHANGED MUCH. GARBA WAS CONCERNED TO HEAR OF MUTSHATSHA, WHICH SEEMED NEWS TO HIM.

5. GARBA SAID HE IS FLYING TO KINSHASA MARCH 30 TO TALK WITH MOBUTU AND ASSESS THE SITUATION AND POSSIBILITIES FROM THERE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HE SAID THE ZIAREANS HAD NOT ASKED NIGERIA FOR ANY MATERIAL ASSISTANCE. GARBA
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THEN SAID HE MIGHT FLY ON TO ANGOLA MARCH 31 AFTER THE ZAIRE VISIT IF THAT APPEARED USEFUL. THIS SEEMED HIGHLY TENTATIVE AT FIRST BUT THE MORE HE THOUGHT ABOUT IT THE MORE HE SEEMED TO FEEL IT WOULD BE VALUABLE TO GET A FIRST-HAND IMPRESSION OF THE SITUATION, ATTITUDES AND PROSPECTS IN ANGOLA. HE SAID IF HE WENT, IT WOULD BE A FLYING VISIT AND HE WOULD RETURN LAGOS MARCH 31.

6. CHARGE ASKED HOW GARBA'S CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UN HAD GONE LAST WEEK; GARBA SAID SOVIET HAD SIMPLY LISTENED AND WITHOUT ANY COMMENT HAD SAID HE WOULD RELAY GARBA'S VIEWS TO MOSCOW.

7. GARBA PLANS TO LEAVE LAGOS APRIL 2 TO SEE FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN IN LONDON AND THEN CONTINUE ON TO NEW DELHI FOR MEETING OF NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE. AFTER THE MEETING HE IS SUPPOSED TO GO TO EASTERN EUROPE, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE HE WOULD MAKE IT. IF HE DID GO, HE WOULD NOT BE BACK IN LAGOS UNTIL

ABOUT APRIL 20.

8. IN CONNECTION WITH HIS FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH OWEN, WHOM HE DOES NOT KNOW, GARBA SAID HE HAD LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN THE BRITISH RESOLVE REGARDING SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. HE BELIEVES THE US MUST JOIN IN WITH THE UK IN A COMMON EFFORT TO FIND SOLUTION AND MUST SUPPLY BACKBONE TO THE BRITISH STANCE.

9. GARBA EXPRESSED COMPLETE SATISFACTION WITH HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE LAST WEEK, WAS GRATIFIED THE MEETING COULD BE ARRANGED SO QUICKLY, SAID HE FOUND THE EXCHANGE HIGHLY USEFUL AND WAS MUCH IMPRESSED WITH BOTH THE SECRETARY AND NSC ADVISER BRZEZINSKI. GARBA OBSERVED THAT THE SECRETARY IS COMING IN AT A FAVORABLE TIME WHEN NIGERIA AND THE US NOW REALIZE THAT THEY NEED EACH OTHER; OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIONS WILL ACCORDINGLY BE MUCH SMOOTHER THAN BEFORE.

10. IN CONCLUSION, CHARGE REITERATED THE KEEN USG INTEREST IN AND APPRECIATION FOR NIGERIAN MEDIATION IN ZAIRE SITUATION, SAID WE SHARED FMG VIEW THAT THE MATTER SHOULD BE SETTLED BY AFRICANS AND WITHOUT GREAT POWER INTERVENTION, AND SAID WE WOULD BE LOOKING FORWARD WITH INTEREST TO FURTHER RESULTS OF MEDIATION EFFORTS. GARBA SAID HE WOULD DO THE BEST HE COULD BUT ENDED RATHER LAMELY THAT IF ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER WOULD NOT ACCEPT NIGERIAN MEDIATION, THERE WAS NOT MUCH THE FMG COULD DO ABOUT IT. CROSBY

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